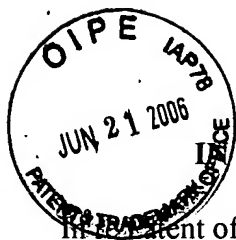


Cdfc



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Inherent of:

Jeffrey A. Humber

Examiner: Charles E. Phillips

Patent No.: 7,055,184 B2

Group Art Unit: 3751

Issued: June 6, 2006

For: ***Closet Flange with Knockout Retainer*** )

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTION**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.322**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Certificate**  
**JUN 23 2006**  
**of Correction**

Sir

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.322, please issue a certificate of correction of the above-identified patent to correct a clerical error which apparently occurred during printing of the patent. As noted in the attached Form PTO/SB/44, the grammatical error appears in Claim 1, column 4, line 59, which *should* read "...prevent the knockout from falling down the through..." See Claim 1 in the attached copy of the *Notice of Allowability* mailed December 6, 2005.

No fee is due in connection this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Michl H. J. 6/16/00

By: Michael H. Jester  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 28,022

**JUN 28 2006**

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.  
(Also Form PTO-1050)

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,055,184  
DATED : June 6, 2006  
INVENTOR(S) : Jeffrey A. Humber

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

In column 4, line 59, Claim 1 should read:

"...prevent the knockout from falling down ~~and~~ the through..."

### MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER

Michael H. Jester  
A Professional Law Corporation  
505 D Grand Caribe Causeway  
Coronado, California 92118-3303

PATENT NO.: 7,055,184 B2

No. of Additional Copies



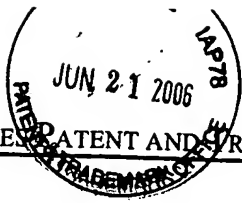
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. the information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commission for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22298

7590

12/06/2005

MICHAEL H JESTER  
505 D GRAND CARIBE CAUSEWAY  
CORONADO, CA 92118

EXAMINER

PHILLIPS, CHARLES E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2005

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,729	12/30/2003	Jeffrey A. Humber	1896-059	9048

TITLE OF INVENTION: CLOSET FLANGE WITH KNOCKOUT RETAINER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$700	\$300	\$1000	03/06/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

## I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

JUN 23 2006



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,729	12/30/2003	Jeffrey A. Humber	1896-059	9048
22298	7590	12/06/2005		
MICHAEL H JESTER 505 D GRAND CARIBE CAUSEWAY CORONADO, CA 92118				
EXAMINER PHILLIPS, CHARLES E				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3751				

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2005

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 28 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 28 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571) 272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

**Notice of Allowability**



Application No.

10/749,729

Examiner

Charles E. Phillips

Applicant(s)

HUMBER, JEFFREY A.

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to paper 10/12/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 14-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

Art Unit: 3751

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jester on 11/23/05.

The application has been amended as follows: claims 1 and 11 have been rewritten as appearing on the attached sheet III. Claim 20 has been canceled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Charles E. Phillips at telephone number 571-272-4893.

  
Charles E. Phillips  
Primary Examiner

Clean Proposed Allowable Claims

1. A closet flange for coupling the base of a toilet to a drain pipe, comprising:  
2 a main generally cylindrical body portion dimensioned for connection to the upper end  
4 of a drain pipe and having a through bore formed by an inner wall of the cylindrical body portion  
for communicating with the interior of the drain pipe;  
an attachment flange portion extending radially outwardly from an upper end of the  
6 cylindrical body portion and configured for connecting to the base of a toilet;  
a knockout temporarily attached to the inner wall of the cylindrical body portion for  
8 sealing the through bore and removable by breaking away a peripheral edge of the knockout at  
a junction with the inner wall of the cylindrical body portion; and  
10 a retainer extending radially inwardly from the inner wall of the cylindrical body portion  
below the region where the knockout is attached and having an inner diameter smaller than an  
12 outer diameter of the knockout to prevent the knockout from falling down the through bore when  
broken away, the through bore having a diameter below the retainer which is larger than the  
14 outer diameter of the knockout.
11. A closet flange, comprising:  
2 a plastic cylindrical body portion dimensioned for solvent welding around the outside of  
a standard smaller size diameter plastic drain pipe, or within the inside of a standard larger size  
4 diameter plastic drain pipe, and having a through bore formed by an inner wall of the cylindrical  
body portion for communicating with the interior of the drain pipe;  
6 a plastic attachment flange portion extending radially outwardly from an upper end of  
the cylindrical body portion and configured for connecting to the base of a toilet;  
8 a plastic knockout attached to the inner wall of the cylindrical body portion for  
temporarily sealing the through bore and removable by breaking away a peripheral edge of the  
10 knockout at a junction with the inner wall of the cylindrical body portion, the knockout having  
an outer diameter less than a diameter of the through bore of the cylindrical body portion; and  
12 a plastic retainer in the form of an annular lip extending radially inwardly from the inner  
wall of the cylindrical portion below the knockout and having an inner diameter smaller than the  
14 outer diameter of the knockout to prevent the knockout from falling down the through bore when  
broken away and to form a downwardly facing surface opposing a butt end of the standard  
16 smaller size drain pipe.

JUN 28 2006

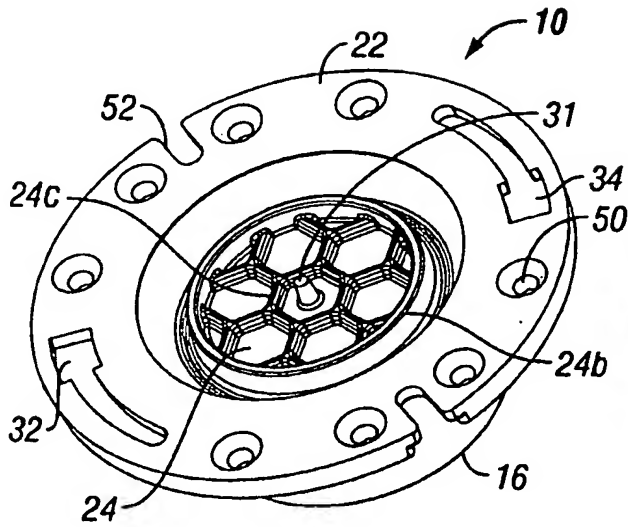


FIG. 1

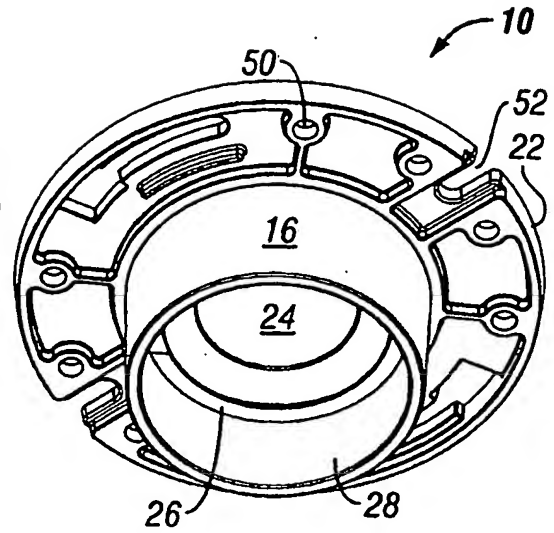


FIG. 2

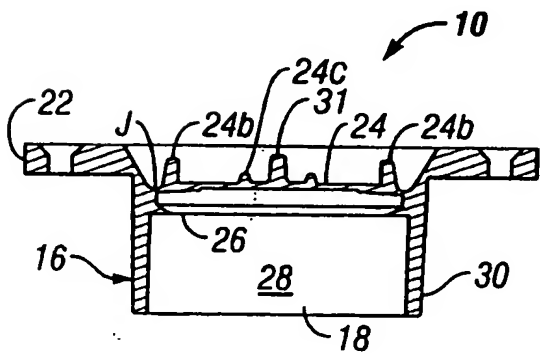


FIG. 3

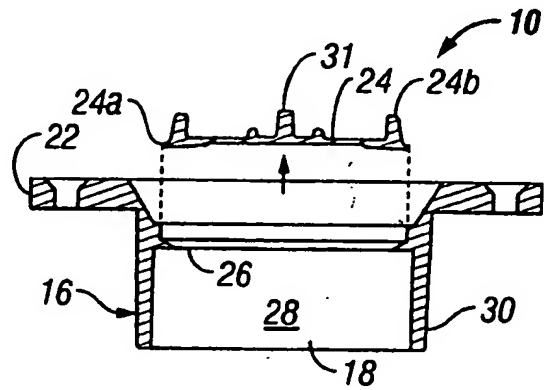


FIG. 4